Response to Office communication dated: 2/6/2004

Attorney Docket: HKPC/363/US

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath, which comprises a sheath-body woven with textile that can hold an underwire, characterized by the fact that the sheath-body is attached to an inner surface of a liner, and including at least one row of lugs in the inner surface of the liner in a position corresponding to the underwire in the sheath-body.
- 2. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 1, wherein there are two rows of lugs in the inner surface of the liner, and a trough able to form gaps with the sheath-body gap between the two rows of lugs.

3. cancelled

- 4. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 1, wherein said sheath-body and liner are woven from a plurality of warp threads and a plurality of weft threads interlocked as a whole, and there is at least one piece of heat fusible thread among at least one of the warp threads and the weft threads, and wherein the warp threads and the weft threads are bonded to form at least one superficial layer in the inner surface of the sheath-body and the <u>surface of the</u> liner separately after melting the heat fusible thread.
- 5. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 4, wherein said sheath-body is woven from synthetic warp threads, which warp threads are comprised alternately of a heat fusible thread and an elastic nylon thread, each interlocked with the weft threads.

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6. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath as recited in claim 5 characterized by the fact that the warp threads are comprised of two pieces of elastic nylon thread and two pieces of heat fusible thread in alternating order.

- 7. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 6, wherein said weft threads are comprised of nylon thread, urethane elastic thread, or combinations thereof, and a fine hair of the weft threads forms a softness layer on the outer surface of the liner.
- 8. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 4, wherein said sheath-body and the liner are woven from synthetic weft threads, which weft threads are comprised of a heat fusible thread and an elastic nylon thread in alternating order, each interlocked with the warp threads.
- 9. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 8, wherein said weft threads are comprised of two pieces elastic nylon thread and two pieces of heat fusible thread in alternating order.
- 10. (presently amended) A safety bra sheath according to claim 9, wherein said warp threads are comprised of nylon thread, urethane elastic thread or combinations thereof, and a fine hair of the warp threads forms a softness layer on the outer surface of the liner.
- 11. (original) A bra sheath comprising:
 - an elongated liner folded along a medial line and having an inner surface;
- a sheath-body having opposing edges attached to the liner inner surface to define a tunnel between the liner inner surface and the sheath-body;
 - a plurality of lugs attached to the liner inner surface; and
 - a softness layer disposed adjacent an outer surface of the folded liner.

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12. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein the lugs and the tunnel project

from opposing sides of the liner inner surface in a face to face relationship.

13. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 further comprising an underwire in the

tunnel.

14. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 consisting of a flattened tubular structure

defining an internal cavity therein.

15. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein the liner is a fabric closely woven

from interlocked threads.

16. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein at least one of the liner and

sheath-body is a fabric woven from interlocking threads comprising a heat fusible

thermoplastic material.

17. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein at least one of the liner and the

sheath-body is a fabric woven from threads comprising a heat fusible thermoplastic

material interlocked with threads selected from nylon, urethane and combinations

thereof.

18. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein at least one of the liner and the

sheath-body is a fabric woven from threads comprising a heat fusible thermoplastic

material interlocked with threads selected from nylon, urethane and combinations

thereof and subjected to heat after weaving to melt the heat fusible threads and

bond the fabric.

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19. (original) The bra sheath of claim 11 wherein the liner is a fabric woven from threads selected from nylon, urethane and combinations thereof, wherein the liner threads form the softness layer.

20. (original) A brassiere comprising:

a bust cup;

a bra sheath comprising:

an elongated liner folded along a medial line and having an inner surface;

a sheath-body having opposing edges attached to the liner inner surface to define a tunnel between the liner inner surface and the sheath-body, wherein at least one of the liner and the sheath-body is a fabric closely woven from threads comprising a heat fusible thermoplastic material interlocked with threads selected from nylon, urethane and combinations thereof and subjected to heat after weaving to melt the heat fusible threads and bond the fabric;

a plurality of lugs attached to the liner inner surface; and

a softness layer formed by the woven threads of the liner and disposed adjacent an outer surface of the folded liner, the softness layer being secured along a lower portion of the bust cup; and an underwire disposed in the tunnel.